

# MELTHAM URBAN • SANITARY • DISTRICT.

## Medical Officer of Health's Report.

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

BIRTHS.—There were registered during the year, 58 males and 55 females, making a total of 113, producing a birth-rate of 21·33 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS.—There were registered during the year, 71, namely, 34 males, 37 females, producing a death-rate of 13·40 per 1,000 of the population. 13 deaths occurred in children under 1 year of age, namely, 12 males, 1 female. Between 1 and 5 years there were 5 deaths, namely, 3 males and 2 females. Between 5 and 15 years there were 4, all of which were females. Between 15 and 25 years there were 2, both females. Between 25 and 65 years there were 23 deaths, 11 males and 12 females; and from 65 years upwards there were 24 deaths, 7 males and 17 females, and of these 6 were over 75 years, 3 males and 3 females, and 3 females were over 85 years.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.—There were 2 deaths from Diphtheria, 1 male under 1 year of age, the other a female 7 years of age, being at the rate of 0·37 per 1,000 of the population.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.—*Tubercle of the Brain* caused 2 deaths, 1 male and 1 female. *Tubercle of the Mesentery*, 1 male. *Tubercle of the Lungs*, 6, namely, 2 males and 4 females. *Cancer*, 3 deaths, all females.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.—11 deaths occurred under this head. Three from *Cerebral Hemorrhage*, all females. Five from *Infantile Convulsions*, 4 males and 1 female. One from *Cerebral Embolism*, male. Two from *Softening of the Brain*, both females.

DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.—Seven deaths occurred from *Heart Disease*, namely, 4 in males, 3 in females.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.—There were 10 deaths occurred from diseases under this heading. One from *Congestion of the Lungs*, a male. From *Pneumonia* 6 deaths, 4 in males and 2 in females. *Bronchitis* caused 3 deaths, 2 in males and 1 female.

DISEASES OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.—Caused 10 deaths, 4 males and 6 females. From *Diarrhoea*, 2 deaths, both females. From *Gastritis*, 1 male. *Gastric Ulcer*, 1 female. *Peritonitis*, 2 males and 2 females. *Intestinal Obstruction*, 1 male. *Cirrhosis of Liver*, 1 male.

DISEASES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM.—From *Nephritis*, one female.

GANGRENE OF THE FOOT.—Caused death in 2 males.

DISEASES OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL SYSTEM.—Fourteen deaths. From *Premature Birth*, 5 deaths, all males. From *Senile Decay*, 9 deaths, 8 females and 1 male.

PERNICIOUS ANEMIA.—Caused death in 1 male 71 years of age.



In February, a case of Diptheria occurred at Helme. The house in which the case occurred was in a satisfactory Sanitary state, but in a field close to the school, a cess-pool was full and overflowing, and had not been emptied for years, causing a very offensive smell, and I think this was the cause of the disease. In the same month a case of Erysipelas occurred at Wentworth House, here I found the sink-pipe untrapped, the drain blocked up, and the slops were thrown out on to the surface of the ground close in front of the door. This matter was immediately attended to and remedied.

On March 10th, I received a notification of a case of Membraneous Croup, and the house was in a satisfactory sanitary condition. I consider the cause of this was the offensive cess-pool above mentioned.

On May 10th, a case of Diptheria was reported occurring at Helme. In this case the drainage of the house was connected with the cess-pool previously named. Two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, likewise two cases of Erysipelas, all of which were visited and the necessary instructions given.

On July 19th, two cases of Scarlet fever were reported. On August 22nd, 27th, 31st, and September 1st, cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, all of which were visited and the necessary instructions given as to isolation, &c.

On September 11th I visited the house previously reported as being unfit for human habitation and found it still occupied, and no steps taken to cause the tenant to remove, and nothing had been done to repair the house at all.

On October 7th, 22nd, 25th, November 5th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 22nd, 2 cases, 26th, 4 cases, December 27th, 2 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, all of which were visited and the necessary instructions given as to isolation, &c.

On November 30th I suggested that the Wilshaw Schools should be closed for one month on account of Scarlet Fever.

On November 25th I examined and tested the water running at Spark Green, and used by Mr. Fenwick Richardson for domestic purposes, and found it to be pure and good and fit for domestic use.

On December 6th 2 cases of Scarlet Fever, 13th 1 case, and 18th 1 case of Scarlet Fever were reported, all of which were visited and the necessary instructions given as to isolation, &c.

During the year there has been nothing further done in the way of Sewering the district.

In the Autumn of 1895, a plot of ground was purchased for the purpose of erecting an Isolation Hospital, but as yet no steps have been taken further than plans being submitted to the Local Government Board. Had it been erected, it would have been of great service during the prevalence of Scarlet Fever lately.

The Scarlet Fever has been of a very mild form and with no fatal cases. We have as yet no Disinfecting Apparatus.

THOMAS A. HAIGH,

Late Medical Officer of Health.

